

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03
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P R 060703Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL SURABAYA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: GOA EXPRESSES CONCERN RE REFUGEE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 4395; (B) SINGAPORE 2065

SUMMARY: GOA IMMIGRATION TELEPHONED EMBASSY TODAY TO REQUEST INFORMATION AND TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT VARIOUS FACETS OF REFUGEE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. DISCUSSION COVERED QUESTIONS REGARDING ACTIVITIES OF WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL AND FOOD FOR HUMANITY GROUPS; CURTAILMENT OF BOAT ARRIVALS IN MALAYSIA; NON-RRIVAL OF BOATS REPORTEDLY ENROUTE TO DARWIN; AND, POSSIBLE ACCELERATION OF BOA MOVEMENTS FROM THAILAND AS REFUGEES BECAME AWARE THAT AUSTRALIANS WERE GIVING PRIORITY TO BOAT PEOPLE.

1. REPORTS FROM GOA IMMIGRATION TEAM IN MALAYSIA INDICATE THAT NO BOATS HAVE LANDED ON EAST COAST SINCE
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MAY 27. (THIS INFORMATION APPEARS TO BE IN CONFLICT WITH WEEEEKLY ARRIVAL RATE REPORTED BY KUALA LUMPUR FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 2). PRIOR TO THAT TIME BOATS HAD BEEN COMING IN AT RATE OF THREE PER DAY. FEARS EXPRESSED THAT BOATS BEING TURNED AWAY BY GOM WITH IMPLICATION THAT AS RESULT FLOW OF BOATS TO AUSTRALIA WOULD INCREASE.

2. ACTIVITIES OF WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL(WVI)
AND TO LESSER DEGREE ACTIVITIES OF FOOD FOR HUMANITY
CAUSING SOME ALARM. ACCORDING TO GOA INFORMATION,
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE ASSISTED 57 CREW MEMBERS OF WVI
BOAT TO GAIN VISAS FOR SINGAPORE. IF TRUE, DID
DMEBASY ELICIT ANY INFORMATION ABOUT FUTURE ACTIVITIES
OF WVI BEYOND THOSE REPORTED IN SINGAPORE 2065 AND
PREVIOUS?

3. SEVERAL BOATS WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED ENROUTE TO
AUSTRALIA HAVE FAILED TO ARRIVE. AUSTRALIANS FEAR
THAT SOME MAY HAVE BEEN LOST AT SEA. NUMBERS OF
MISSING BOATS ARE: KG 0716; KG 1818, VNKG 0871;
YXL 254; AF 9940; VNSG 0027; AND THE THIN VUONG. IF
ADDRESSEE POSTS HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON PRESENT WHERE-
ABOUTS OF MISSING BOATS AND/OR OTHER BOATS ENROUTE TO
AUSTRALIA, PLEASE ADVISE.

4. AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED WAS
DESIGNED TO ADMIT BOTH BOAT PEOPLE AND LAND BASED
REFUGEES. CURRENT THINKING IS TO ACCORD PRIORITY TO
BOAT CASES. GOA IMMIGRATION OFFICER EXPRESSED THOUGHT
THAT REFUGEES IN THAILAND MIGHT BE ENCOURAGED TO LEAVE
LAND CAMPS (WITH ASSISTANCE OF THAI OFFICIALS) FOR THE
SOUTH IN ORDER TO BENEFIT FROM AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM. THUS
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BOAT CASE ACTIVITY WOULD BE ACCELERATED WITH POSSIBILITY
OF FURTHER INCREASE IN TRAFFIC DESTINEDFOR AUSTRALIA.

COMMENT: PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE AUSTRALIANS CONTINUES
TO BE TO HALT FLOW OF REFUGEE BOAT TRAFFIC DESTINED FOR
AUSTRALIA. ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH SEEM TO HAVE A
POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING TRAFFIC FLOW IS CAUSE FOR
ALARM.
SQUIRE

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